

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 10, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-6, 8-11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-24, and 26-30 and rejected claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 19 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,872,959 issued to Nguyen. Claims 1, 12, 19 and 25 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,390 issued to Liu et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 2-6, 8-11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-24, and 26-30 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 19, and 25 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 2, 8, 13, 16, 20, and 26, respectively. Applicant has canceled these dependent claims without prejudice. Further, Applicant has re-written objected to dependent claims 3, 6, 14, and 22 as new independent claims 31, 34, 37, and 38, respectively. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 19, 25, 31, 34, 37, and 38 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Conclusion

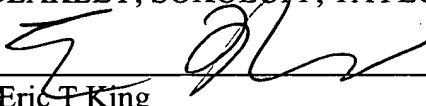
In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-19, 21-25, and 27-40 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 1/19/2005

By


Eric T. King

Reg. No. 44,188

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

Attachments

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

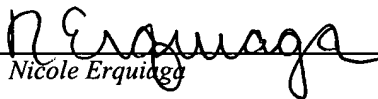
MAILING

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 1/19/2005

FACSIMILE

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office.


Nicole Erquiaga

1/19/2005

Date